

**U.S. Department of Justice**  
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*Western District of New York*

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# **PRESS RELEASE**

December 12, 2005

## **ROCHESTER MAN SENTENCED TO 24 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR MORTGAGE FRAUD**

**RE: UNITED STATES v. WILLIAM O'KEEFE**

Kathleen M. Mehlretter, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of New York, announced today that William O'Keefe, age 35, of Greece, New York, was sentenced to 24 months in prison by United States District Court Judge Michael A. Telesca in connection with his guilty plea on September 23, 2005, to mortgage fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344, which carries a maximum term of imprisonment of 30 years, a \$1,000,000 fine, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard A. Resnick, who handled the case, stated that in 1999 and 2000, O'Keefe purchased four homes in the Rochester area home. For each home, he received a mortgage from a bank or private lender. When applying for the mortgage loans, O'Keefe submitted false documents, including false loan applications, earning statements, tax returns, verification of employment documents, and credit letters.

The banks and private lenders relied on the false documents when granting O'Keefe the mortgages. O'Keefe subsequently defaulted on the mortgages and the properties were foreclosed upon causing a loss to banks and private lenders of \$281,616.

O'Keefe is the third person to pled guilty in connection with this mortgage fraud scheme. The others are John Maggio and Morgan Haines.

The conviction was the culmination of an joint investigation on the part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Peter Ahearn, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Ruth Ritzema, and the United States Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of William E. Kezer.